**Information about the Common Fund**

The purpose of the Common Fund is to provide small, interest-free emergency loans to members. Contributions to the fund are like any other church contribution except funds will be initially held in a lock box, and then in a separate checking account. The fund is intended to be a way for the church to be collectively sharing the risk for sudden financial emergencies. It is not intended to be a long-term solution for chronic financial problems.

The rules for use of this fund are subject to change as time and circumstances change. This is a form of experimentation in communal living in light of our shared identity in Christ, and its success depends much on everyone’s trust and good will. However, once the rules are published, they will be strictly adhered to until such time as circumstances make it necessary for the leaders to adjust the rules.

While participation will probably be no secret among participants, the bookkeeper will not reveal amounts which individuals give to the fund, nor the amounts owed back to the fund. Neither will the reasons for funds being borrowed be shared. Quarterly reports for the fund will not include the identities of the people using it.

**Current Rules for Participation in the Common Fund**:

1. ***Participants***[[1]](#endnote-1) in the ***Common Fund*** must have been members in good standing of the Speedway Church of Christ for more than three months and in other ways gained the trust of the leaders.
2. Participants understand that no lending will begin until the ***Total Funds Given[[2]](#endnote-2)*** reaches $2,000-$4,000 and if there are at least ten participants.
3. Participants must contribute $100.00 to the fund before they may begin borrowing.
4. Participants must make an ongoing quarterly contribution to the fund starting July 15 and consent to being contacted about this contribution. The minimum contribution is $10.00.
5. Participants may only borrow for necessities: mortgage payments, groceries, medicine, utilities, car repairs etc.
6. There is a minimum withdraw of $50. This common fund is not intended to help with weekly cash flow or petty cash kinds of problems, which can be taken care of through more conventional channels. Our meager resources for bookkeeping will prevent this.
7. When borrowing begins participants may borrow up to 7% of the total fund at any one time and their total borrowing will never exceed 16% of the ***Total Funds Given***.[[3]](#endnote-3) Thus, if the fund reaches 4000 dollars with ten participants, it would be possible to borrow $280.00 at one time. In time, a total fund of $20,000 with ten participants would make it possible for a participant to borrow $1,400 at a time. This is the maximum amount of lending power the leaders envision for the fund.

1. ***Participants*** are single individuals or participating households including children under 22 yrs. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. ***Total Funds Given*** may go down if a borrower leaves the shared fund without paying back loans. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Figures given reflect 10-14 participants. With 15-19 participants, members may borrow up to 7% of the TFG at one time and up to 11% of the TFG. With 20-24 participants, members may borrow up to 7% of the TFG at one time, and they may borrow up to 8% of the TFG. With 25-29 participants, members can only borrow up to 6.5% of the TFG. With 30 or more participants, members may borrow up to 5.5% of the TFG. If the number of participants grows beyond one of the previous thresholds without a considerable growth in the TFG, it will be necessary for participants to pay down loans previously made to get them within the new lending parameters set for the larger pool of participants. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)